REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the after-final phone interview on January 19, 2010, where the Section 103 rejections and possible amendments for overcoming the rejections were discussed. We appreciate the courtesy and helpfulness of the Examiner in the interview. The claims have been amended in light of the interview.

35 USC Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 20, and 29 are the only remaining independent claims in the present application. The rejections to these claims are traversed by appropriate amendments to these claims. Each of these claims includes a feature neither disclosed by, nor made obvious in view of the prior art references. For example, amended independent claim 1 recites the combination of "receiving, at a server processor, a request from a client processor to establish a transmission control protocol (TCP) connection, wherein the TCP includes a link establishment phase and an authentication phase, wherein initiation of the link establishment phase occurs apart from the authentication phase, and wherein the receiving step and following steps occur during the link establishment phase;" "creating an extensible authentication protocol (EAP) session request;" "encapsulating the EAP session request in a standard response to the request to establish the TCP connection;" and "sending the standard response containing the EAP session request to the first processor while still in the link establishment phase, wherein the client processor enters an authentication session with the server processor as a result of receiving the EAP session request."

The other amended independent claims recite features of similar scope. Support for these amendments is found in the specification on Figure 2 and its associated description. Applicants respectfully submit that these features are not taught or suggested in the cited references.

The Examiner referred to Strom as disclosing a link establishment phase, L. Blunk & J. Vollbrecht as disclosing authentication, and Parhami as disclosing parallel processing. However, none of these references teach or suggest how an EAP session request is

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encapsulated in a standard response to a request to establish a TCP connection, as recited in the amendment independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly sought. The undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number below at the Examiner's convenience if it would help in the prosecution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

TRELLIS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
LAW GROUP, PC

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